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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Adelphi Research

Special, 2005

I. The aims of the organization

Adelphi Research (Adelphi) was founded in 2001 as a non-profit organization. Its mission is to promote high-quality interdisciplinary research and strategic policy analysis, provide public policy consulting and training and facilitate dialogue for institutions and among civil society in Europe and abroad.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Adelphi's staff participated in and/or presented at the following meetings/conferences:

(a) In 2005: Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group, New York (January, February and April); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) expert meeting on global environmental change and security", Bonn, Germany (March); United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meetings of subsidiary bodies of the parties to the Convention, Bonn (May); High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, New York (May and June); European conference under the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, Berlin (December);

(b) In 2006: CO_2 managers for industry in China — dialogue forum, Cologne, Germany, Dublin and Vienna (May); Energy security in the Latin American region: renewable energy as a viable alternative, Montevideo (September);

(c) In 2007: integrating environment, development and conflict prevention — European and national, Berlin (March); German presidency meeting — informal integrated product policy network, Berlin, (June); Approaches and challenges to vector-borne diseases: impact of climate change on vectors and rodent reservoirs, Berlin (September);

(d) In 2008: "Environment, conflict and peacebuilding — expert advisory group meeting with UNEP, New York (February); United Nations Peacebuilding Commission: working group on lessons learned focusing on environment, conflict and peacebuilding, New York (May); Climate change security threats: options for action in politics, science and economy, Freiburg, Germany (November).

II. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Adelphi participated in the following: (a) Consultative assistance to UNEP finance institution signatories on clarifying and analysing environmental activities so that the institutions involved could receive better support, Berlin (November 2004-February 2005); (b) In Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia (February 2005-December 2007), a three-year capacity-building and training programme to strengthen the

regulatory capacity of the environment ministries and civil society; (c) Integrated wastewater management concept for the eco-electroplating park in Karaisalkulam, Madurai, India (April 2005-March 2007): Adelphi and the University of Leoben supported local industries, while implementing cleaner production measures and developing a concept for decentralized wastewater treatment; (d) Integrated Southern Africa business advisory, South Africa (April 2005-March 2008): Adelphi and its partners strengthened the capacity of the South African partners in a selected area of renewable energy technologies; (e) In Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey (May 2003-November 2005), Adelphi and its partners implemented a four-year project on efficient wastewater management in the Mediterranean region under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of the European Union; (f) In Berlin (July 2002-November 2005), Adelphi provided policy advice to the Ministry of the Environment in the context of the current trade negotiations with the World Trade Organization; (g) In India and Germany (January 2006-December 2008), the European Union-India Sustainable Energy Efficiency Initiative and Adelphi designed marketing materials to implement and enforce the Indian Energy Conservation Act at the local and state levels; (h) In Lebanon (January 2006-January 2009), Adelphi worked in conjunction with the University of Balamand to establish the process of integrated coastal zone management as a tool to manage Lebanon's coast with local stakeholders; (i) In Kathmandu and Berlin (February 2006-February 2008), Adelphi and its partners implemented a river monitoring system for Kathmandu under the Asia Pro-Eco II programme of EuropeAid; (j) In the framework of the European Union-India network for sustainability (February 2004-July 2006), Adelphi aimed to position small- and medium-sized enterprises of the Indian automotive component industry to fulfil requirements of global customers and provide for productivity gains; (k) Under the Indo-European e-Waste Initiative (January 2007-December 2009), Adelphi helped reduce environmental degradation through e-waste recycling; (l) In Africa, the Middle East and the southern Caucasus (September 2007-March 2009), Adelphi developed an instrument to screen environmental conflicts for a study focusing on environmental cross-border cooperation and peacebuilding; (m) In Austria, Italy, Belgium, Hungary and France (January 2008-December 2009), a travelling exhibition was created to increase awareness about the complexity of urban transport research and the ramifications of citizens' transport choices; (n) Since April 2008, Adelphi has been supporting the Indian Bureau of Energy Efficiency in extending training services and upgrading regional and international networks; (o) Adelphi collaborated with UNEP to develop analytical frameworks for environmental issues that promote peacebuilding in post-conflict countries (December 2007-April 2008); (p) Partnered with the World Tourism Organization to promote energy efficiency in Thailand's tourism sector by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (November 2008-present).

III. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Adelphi contributed to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in Europe, the southern Caucasus, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Major actions included the following: (a) Goal 7, target 1: trained 286 civil servants in environment and conflict cooperation issues; strengthened productive and sustainable renewable energy technologies in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Namibia through policy dialogues; (b) Goal 7 target 2: promoted European Union policy dialogue to protect the Black Sea; (c) Goal 7, target 3: achieved a sustainable

water ecosystem through participatory scenario-building in Italy, France, Belgium, Estonia and Latvia; implemented cleaner production measures and developed a concept for decentralized wastewater treatment from metal finishing industries in India; (d) Goal 8, target 4: developed policies that improved the health and living conditions of India's unskilled labour force; (e) Goal 8, target 5: improved e-waste technologies to manage e-waste and recycling in India.

IV. Activities in support of global principles

In December 2008, Adelphi supported the United Nations climate change conferences by participating in "Climate change and security: next steps" in Poznan, Poland. It also began supporting the German Federal Ministry for the Environment in preparation for the 2009 conference in Copenhagen.

2. Global Environmental Action

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Global Environmental Action (GEA) is a non-governmental organization, mainly sponsored by private industrial enterprises in Japan. GEA aims to highlight the state of the global environment and the crisis it is facing by organizing conferences and meetings on all levels, and side events during the related United Nations conferences. It was founded by former Prime Minster Noboru Takeshita and counts among its members Japanese eminent persons, Diet members regardless of factional affiliation and other persons of influence from government, industry and academia.

Between 2005 and 2008 GEA also received funding from the Japan Fund for Global Environment and from the related Government ministries.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

GEA holds international conferences every two years with the support and cooperation of various United Nations and international organizations, and the outcome of these conferences is presented at sessions of the Conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A conference on climate change and its effect on sustainable development, was held in Tokyo in October 2005, co-sponsored by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. A conference on policy approaches for realizing a sustainable future was held in Tokyo in October 2007, co-sponsored by the United Nations University and UNEP. Side events supporting the main conferences were held in Nairobi in November 2006.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

GEA has joined many other non-governmental organizations at side events of climate change conferences and related United Nations events, and has worked to rouse international public opinion concerning such matters as the realization of the low-carbon society. The current GEA Director-General was the Chairman of the third session of the Conference of the Parties in Kyoto in 1997, where he contributed greatly towards the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol. He made a statement from the outcome of the 2005 GEA international conference at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties in Tokyo in October 2005 and also at the first meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Montreal, Canada (in November and December 2005). In 2007, Rajendra K. Pachauri of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was the guest speaker at the GEA international conference and the outcome of the conference was presented by the

Panel at the thirteenth Conference of the Parties in Bali, Indonesia. In 2006, together with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, GEA developed "Virtual Globe" (a test project using the Internet to collect donations and funds from around the world), to support non-governmental organizations from developing countries in Asia involved in environmental problems. As a result of this project, GEA was able to support eight environmental organizations in Asia.

GEA has wielded enormous influence on the Government of Japan, which as a developed country has overcome the horrific experience of Minamata disease to achieve sustainable development system and has contributed significant amounts of environmental official development assistance.

3. International Mediterranean Women's Forum

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The main purpose of the International Mediterranean Women's Forum (IMWF) is to further cooperation and the exchange of experiences between women of the Mediterranean in order to effectively improve the conditions of women throughout the Mediterranean and at a global level. Main courses of action of IMWF are communication activities, training, education, promotion of women entrepreneurs and scientists and organization of international meetings and artistic, social and cultural events.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

The leaders of IMWF have participated each year in the work of the Economic and Social Council. At all meetings, representatives of IMWF presented oral statements and distributed written material outlining the programmes undertaken and the results were obtained. Representatives attended the following meetings: (a) forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, February and March 2005, New York; (b) international conference of non-governmental organizations that maintain official relations with UNESCO, December 2005, Paris; (c) fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, February and March 2007, New York; (d) fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, February and March 2008, New York; (e) sixty-first annual conference of the non-governmental organizations associated with the Department of Public Information, September 2008, Paris.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

1. Activities undertaken in collaboration with UNESCO

These included (a) Arab network for women in science and technology, February 2005, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain; (b) The rights and positions of women: reality or utopia, November 2005; (c) Third festival of women creators of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea", August and September 2006, Thessaloniki, Greece; (d) Equal opportunities for all in Italy and the Euro-Mediterranean area, June 2007, Turin, Italy; (e) International conference on women's leadership for sustainable development, November 2007, Jerusalem and Haifa, Israel; (f) Intercultural dialogue as a peacemaking tool: the viewpoint of the women of Palestine, Israel and Italy, December 2008, Turin, Italy.

2. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

In line with Goal 1, target 2, IMWF sponsored the training of women trainers with a view to developing new professions and work opportunities as a way to combat poverty, June 2008, Tangiers, Morocco.

All the activities promoted by IMWF aim to achieve Goal 3, target 1. Among other means, the objective was achieved through the organization of international meetings, networks of local and national associations and documentation centres and communications both printed and online. Activities include (a) production of a monthly newsletter by representatives from the Club of Marseilles, France; (b) publication of the UNESCO science report on science, technology and gender, 2005, a collaboration between the International Centre Ipazia and UNESCO; and (c) the Alfieri project on best practice for improving equal opportunities for all in the Mediterranean area, 2007 and 2008, promoted by the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino, Italy.

The conference on women's leadership for Sustainable Development (see sect. I above) promoted Goal 2, target 1.

3. Activities in support of global principles

Each year IMWF celebrates International Women's Day with national and international events. Other activities include those related to (a) UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development: "60 Years of UNESCO" (November 2005), Turin; training in law and international organizations (November 2007), Turin; "Planet Earth: How can we save it?" (November 2008), Turin; (b) Human Rights Day: International dialogue as a peacemaking tool: the viewpoint of the women of Israel, Italy and Palestine (December 2008), Turin; (c) International Year of Physics: research programme on women and physics (academic year 2005/06), Centro Ipazia Women and Science; (d) Decade of Education for Sustainable Development: "How can we redistribute energy?" (November 2006), Turin; National Week of Education about Sustainable Energy (November 2006), Turin; research and survey on sustainable energy (academic year 2006/07), Italy; training programme on law and international organizations (academic year 2007/08), Mediterranean basin; (e) International Year of Planet Earth: Research-action programme (academic year 2008/09), Mediterranean basin.

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4. Open Society Institute

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The Open Society Institute (OSI) is a private operating and grants-making foundation that promotes the development of open societies worldwide by supporting an array of initiatives in different geographic regions. Established in 1993 by financier and philanthropist George Soros, OSI collaborates with an informal network of foundations and organizations — the Soros Foundations Network — dedicated to building vibrant democracies in more than 60 countries throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. OSI exerts its influence in such areas as human rights, youth initiatives, anti-discrimination, legal reform, education and public health. Locally, OSI backs a range of projects to support the rule of law and independent media. From its headquarters in New York City, OSI supports its programme goals through the application of grants and the pursuit of research and advocacy. The organization's focus on responsible development and the protection of marginalized populations often brings its activities into parallel with those of the United Nations, and OSI values its special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council as an effective platform from which to promote the reforms and restorations integral to more open societies — and a more tolerant world.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In April 2006, the International Palliative Care Initiative (IPCI) of OCI participated in the inaugural meeting of partner organizations for cancer control at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

In May 2006, at the request of WHO, IPCI co-hosted a meeting with the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care in Salzburg in May 2006 to draft guidelines for the essential medicines list for palliative care.

In 2006-2008, IPCI supported four regional pain and palliative care meetings focusing on opinion policy in Uganda, Ghana, the Philippines and Moldova.

In 2008, IPCI met with representatives of WHO to discuss opioid availability for patients with pain worldwide. IPCI works extensively with several WHO collaborating centres and has participated in drafting materials disseminated by WHO.

In November 2008, the Law and Health Initiative (LAHI) of OSI participated in individual meetings with members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on issues related to drug rehabilitation and the right to health. LAHI spearheaded the production of a health and human rights resource guide for advocates and practitioners. LAHI is also supporting the development of a series of practical manuals for lawyers interested in taking human rights in patient care cases.

In 2006, the Economic and Social Council accreditation of OSI enabled a European Roma Rights Centre representative to testify before the Committee on the

Elimination of Discrimination against Women on health-care abuses against the Roma population.

From 2005 to 2008, the International Harm Reduction Development Program (IHRD) participated as a non-governmental representative at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs meetings that take place annually in Vienna, and hosted parallel briefings at each meeting on subjects ranging from drug treatment to harm reduction for women to the effects of illicit drug policy on HIV prevention and treatment.

In April 2008, IHRD collaborated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on an analysis of drug treatment and human rights protections, a subject on which IHRD has jointly sponsored panels with UNODC at international conferences, including the International Harm Reduction Conference in Bangkok in April 2008.

In June 2008, IHRD played an active role in the General Assembly high-level meetings on HIV/AIDS convened in New York to gauge progress since the 2001 declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS. IHRD works regularly with WHO Europe to highlight deaths related to overdose and the need for services, and has offered expert commentary on WHO guidelines on issues related to tuberculosis and harm reduction. In August 2008, at the international AIDS conference in Mexico City, IHRD participated with WHO and the head of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in an expert briefing for the press on tuberculosis.

IHRD has ongoing collaborations with headquarters and regional offices of UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the special rapporteurs on torture and health on topics of health and human rights of drug users.

In May and June 2006, the OSI Public Health Watch (PHW) attended the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS and supported several civil society organizations' participation in panel discussions.

In October 2007, PHW participated in the 2007 WHO European ministerial forum on tuberculosis in Berlin and convened the civil society consultation "Fighting tuberculosis in the European region" to prepare a statement for the forum.

In June 2007 and April 2008, PHW participated in the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board as the non-governmental organization observer, organizing a side event to launch the report on civil society perspectives on HIV/AIDS policy in 2007 and participating in the HIV/TB thematic session in 2008.

In April 2008, PHW participated in the WHO meeting on tuberculosis in Geneva. In June 2008, PHW attended the HIV/TB Global Leaders Forum and the high-level meeting on AIDS in New York. At the 39th Union World Conference on Lung Health, PHW co-sponsored a satellite session on tuberculosis and human rights with WHO.

From 2005 through 2007, the OSI International Women's Programme (IWP) supported the annual participation of non-governmental representatives from Africa, Asia and the Middle East in the Commission on the Status of Women and select other advocacy meetings focusing on protecting and promoting the rights of women.

In 2008, IWP redirected its focus to increase its collaboration with the United Nations, including, but not limited to, involvement in the following events and activities.

In March 2008, IWP supported and facilitated the participation of non-governmental organization grantees in the annual CSW and coordination of parallel events and meetings. In addition, IWP representatives held a series of meetings with relevant departments of the Secretariat in order to follow up on possible areas of support for women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

From April to July 2008, IWP representatives continued to meet regularly with officials of the United Nations to continue its work on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other priority countries. In August 2008, IWP spearheaded the creation of an informal non-governmental organization working group to focus on the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008). This group works in partnership with UNIFEM and United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, and coordinates with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the preparation of the Secretary-General's report on resolution 1820 (2008).

In September 2008, IWP was accepted as a member of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security which works directly with the United Nations for the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

In addition to these activities, OSI has provided support to Karama, a movement to end violence against women across the Middle East and North Africa. OSI sponsored Karama's six delegates at the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women and co-sponsored a panel discussion at the United Nations Church Centre in New York on combating violence against women in the Middle East and North Africa. Also in 2007, Karama revived the Middle East Caucus for non-governmental organization delegates of the Commission on the Status of Women.

In 2008, OSI co-sponsored Karama delegates attending the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The delegation led the re-named Western Asia Caucus and held a session on dignity and the politics of financing for women's rights.

OSI has facilitated panel discussions on the situation of refugees from Myanmar in Thailand (March 2007); the plight of Buddhist monks (September 2008); and the situation of the Rohingya population (March 2009). OSI regularly participates in consultative meetings with relevant United Nations officials.

5. Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

The Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights[1] (RFK Center), established in 1968, is dedicated to advancing human rights by engaging in long-term partnerships with its laureates: activists who have won the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. RFK Center staff work with laureates to initiate and support sustainable social justice movements using innovative tools including litigation; technical initiatives; advocating with Governments, the United Nations and other international entities and non-governmental organizations; and launching consumer awareness campaigns aimed at fostering corporate responsibility.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In addition to the activities listed below, the Center regularly advocates with Security Council members and United Nations Members on various issues.

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

The following meetings were held with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): (a) In October 2005, RFK Center staff helped facilitate the visit of the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to Immokalee, Florida, United States of America, to meet with members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a laureate, and witness the extremely poor conditions of the migrant farm workers in United States agriculture fields; (b) In November 2005, Laureate Stephen Bradberry met with the Independent Expert in New Orleans; (c) In 2007, RFK Center staff hosted a briefing for the Independent Expert on minority issues before her official visit to the Dominican Republic; (d) In June 2008, RFK Center staff participated in the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean preparatory to the Durban Review Conference and advocated for greater protection of the rights of migrants and their descendents; (e) At the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Panel on Food Security held in New York in August 2008, RFK Center staff participated in a consultation organized by UNICEF and OHCHR on human rights and rising food prices; (f) In November 2008, RFK Center staff and 2008 RFK Laureate Aminatou Haidar met with the Independent Expert on minority issues to discuss human rights issues facing the Saharawi population under Moroccan occupation; (g) In December 2008 in Geneva, RFK Center staff presented recommendations to the forum on minority issues and the right to education on the right to education of Afro-descendants and indigenous communities in the Americas and contributed to

[1] Formerly Robert F. Kennedy Memorial.

the forum recommendation document that the Independent Expert presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In March 2005, the RFK Center submitted a written statement on behalf of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on slavery in the agricultural industry, violations of the economic and social rights of farm workers in the United States, and corporate and governmental accountability.

In April 2005, RFK Center staff drafted and submitted to relevant United Nations departments and offices a white paper laying out a multifaceted peacebuilding mission to Haiti and met with officials to explore the establishment of a peacebuilding trust fund as a mechanism for implementing a human rights-based, community-centred approach to development utilizing existing resources on the ground in Haiti, particularly MINUSTAH troops and United Nations agencies.

In May 2005, RFK Center staff and the Reverend Andrew Karnley, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Monrovia, met with United Nations officials to discuss the humanitarian and human rights situation in Liberia; a more integrated approach to peacekeeping; strengthening the UNMIL mandate; the possibility of a peacebuilding trust fund; and the incorporation of language from the international human rights legal framework when reporting on the human rights situation in Liberia.

In May 2005, RFK Center staff met in New York with several Member States to discuss the integration of economic and social rights into the peacebuilding mission in Haiti.

In June and July 2005, RFK Center staff met in New York with United Nations officials to discuss the spectrum of economic and social human rights violations in Haiti as well as the possible implementation of a peacebuilding trust fund.

In January 2006 in Gaza City, RFK Center staff met with senior officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and WHO to discuss the plight of Palestinian refugees.

In March 2006 in Monrovia, RFK Center staff met with the Chief of the Human Rights and Protection Section of UNMIL to discuss the human rights situation in Liberia, RFK Center work with local partners and the need to maintain and develop baseline indicators for socio-economic human rights abuses in post-conflict Liberia.

In March 2006 in Monrovia, RFK Center staff met with a senior UNMIL rule of law expert to discuss the current status of the local courts, judiciary and the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee in Liberia. In July 2006, Center staff sent a letter to the human rights director of UNMIL strongly urging the UNMIL human rights and protection section to initiate the collection of data determining whether or not progress had been made in the human rights situation in Liberia since the conflict ended in 2003. Under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, State parties are obligated to collect such data. In August 2006 and August 2008 in N'Djamena, Center staff and Laureate Delphine Djiraibe met with

United Nations staff to discuss Ms. Djiraibe's work with the Public Interest Law Center, peace and reconciliation issues and the ongoing humanitarian situation. They also met in August 2006 with a WHO representative to discuss WHO programmes targeting reproductive health and health education, as well as the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

In June 2007, Center staff met in Haiti with MINUSTAH officers to discuss projects in Port de Paix.

In the Guatemala elections of September 2007, an RFK Center-led election monitoring delegation joined the OHCHR team to visit polling centres on election day.

In September and December 2007 and March and April 2008, RFK Center staff met in Washington, D.C., with the Senior Protection Officer of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to discuss and provide updates on ongoing human rights issues, including statelessness, facing Dominican citizens of Haitian descent.

In April 2008, Laureate Sonia Pierre met with the UNHCR Regional Representative to discuss policies in the Dominican Republic that lead to the institutionalized disenfranchisement of Dominicans of Haitian descent.

In May 2008, Center staff met with the UNICEF Country Director in Santo Domingo to discuss the issue of statelessness of Dominicans of Haitian descent.

In July 2008, RFK Center staff briefed the UNHCR Director for the Americas in Washington, D.C., on human rights abuses targeting Dominicans of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic and met with the UNHCR Senior Protection Officer to discuss and provide updates on ongoing human rights issues, including statelessness, facing Dominican citizens of Haitian descent.

In August 2008 in N'Djamena, RFK Center staff and Laureate Delphine Djiraibe met with the UNDP Resident Representative to discuss Ms. Djiraibe's work with the Public Interest Law Center, peace and reconciliation issues, the ongoing humanitarian situation and the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). In September 2008, Center staff met with the Resident Representative to discuss possible collaboration with the Public Interest Law Center and the impact of the oil spill from the Chad-Cameroon oil and pipeline project.

In October 2008, Center staff delivered a statement drafted by 2008 Laureate Aminatou Haidar of Western Sahara to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly. The statement emphasized the brutality of the Moroccan occupying force and requested that the defence of human rights be added to the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

III. Activities in line with global principles and the Millennium Development Goals

In line with Goal 1, the RFK Center submitted an overview on the impact of agribusiness on small family farmers in Brazil in June 2009 to the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, who held a closed consultation on the role of agribusiness in the right to food.

In line with Goal 2, the Center disseminated a report on the right to education of Afro-descendants and indigenous communities in the Americas.

In line with Goal 6, in June 2008 the Center published an 87-page report on the denial of the right to water in Haiti.

6. Women's Health in Women's Hands

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The mandate of the Women's Health in Women's Hands (WHIWH) community health centre is to provide primary health care to black women and women of colour from the Caribbean, African, Latin American and South Asian communities in Metropolitan Toronto and surrounding municipalities. We are committed to working from an inclusive feminist, pro-choice, anti-racist, anti-oppression and multilingual participatory framework in addressing the issue of access to health care for our mandated priority populations.

For more than 20 years WHIWH has been providing health-care services to black women and women of colour. As an ongoing advocate for inclusive and responsive strategies in this area, WHIWH continues to involve itself with a number of collaborative research initiatives as a way to effectively address the particular needs of our priority populations. Using a participatory approach, WHIWH analyses and identifies barriers in health-care delivery and designs resources to improve quality and access. We maintain international links with groups and organizations in the home countries of the clients we serve. We advocate for the women from our priority groups at the local, national and international level.

In 2007 we made minor amendments to our by-laws for the purpose of clarifying the language. This by-law change has not substantively impacted the operations of the organization.

In the years 2005-2008 we received enhancements to our sources of funding which increased our funding from Can$ 2,579,195 in 2005 to Can$ 3,407,527 in 2008.

The increased funding has enabled us to strengthen our research initiatives and to address the impact of chronic disease, including HIV/AIDS and diabetes, on our populations.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In February and March 2005, WHIWH attended the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and presented a side event which explored the inequalities among women and their impact on the physical and mental health of black women and women of colour from the South living in the North and proposed strategies and initiatives to ensure effective health-care and health promotion programmes. WHIWH also attended a variety of workshops organized by non-governmental organizations on topics of interest and a meeting of the Canadian non-governmental organization.

At the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in February and March 2006, WHIWH participated in civil society and non-governmental organization discussions, shared information about its model of care and raised issues of the gender dimensions of immigration based on Canadian experience with black women and women of colour.

III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

At the follow-up General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS in May and June 2006, WHIWH attended numerous activities organized by civil society, particularly those that highlighted issues of women and mobile or immigrant populations. WHIWH also participated in the daily civil society updates and other planning meetings to ensure a voice on issues facing black communities and communities of colour, particularly women, living in Western developed countries.

IV. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

In line with Goal 1 and in order to overcome the impact of hunger on our priority populations, WHIWH partners with the Daily Bread food bank to provide food for clients, with enhanced rations for our prenatal clients (2,000 visits per annum). WHIWH also participates in various networks whose aim is to reduce poverty, hunger and homelessness.

In line with Goal 2, WHIWH has advocated at local and provincial levels to ensure that all children in Canada are enrolled in primary education in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child regardless of the immigration or refugee status of their parents.

In line with Goal 3, WHIWH provides opportunities for women through our student placement programme (25 students per annum) and our skills development and health promotion programme for HIV-positive women (200 women) to increase their skills and future opportunities. WHIWH also participates in various campaigns to encourage women to vote.

In line with Goals 4 and 5, WHIWH provides complete health care including specialist consultations, diagnostics and pre- and post-natal classes to our clients who, due to their immigration status, do not qualify for health-care coverage. WHIWH has also been active in campaigns to ensure that Canadian children born to parents with immigration status are recognized as Canadian citizens and enrolled in Government health insurance plans.

In line with Goal 6, WHIWH has been instrumental in the formation of the African and Black Diaspora Global Network on HIV and AIDS, which was launched at the 2006 international AIDS conference to highlight the issues affecting African and black migrant populations in their countries of destination and to support a coordinated global response which is informed by best services.

At the AIDS conference held in Mexico in 2008, there was little in terms of global village activities or presentations in the scientific programme to highlight issues of African/black migrant populations living in Western developed countries. Plans are already under way to support the implementation of such activities at the Vienna 2010 AIDS conference.

WHIWH also sits on various committees, makes presentations at local, national and international forums and carries out research to promote the achievement of Goal 6.

In response to increasing rates of HIV infection in black women and the effects of the epidemic on their lives, WHIWH developed an HIV/AIDS initiative which

provides a model for multifaceted HIV interventions. A documentary film, "The woman I have become", which highlights the components of the model, has been widely distributed. WHIWH has also begun working on a concerted effort to combat the impact of diabetes, a chronic disease that affects more than 800,000 people in Ontario, Canada, with a higher prevalence rate for women from our populations. WHIWH was recognized for its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by an invitation to speak at the United Nations Civil Society Development Forum in Geneva, Switzerland.

V. Activities in support of global principles

World AIDS Day is observed each December with presentations for service providers, clients and community members. At the 2007 commemoration WHIWH hosted a pre-release screening of its documentary on African and Caribbean women living with HIV/AIDS in Canada. At the 2008 commemoration WHIWH formally launched and distributed the documentary (available in English, Arabic, French, Swahili and Somali) and its accompanying discussion guide. These products have subsequently been widely distributed.